

REMARKS

This is a simultaneous amendment of the English translation of the U.S. National Stage of PCT/EP 2004/012942.

Claims 1 to 17 were canceled and replaced by new claims 18 to 34. The new claims 18 to 34 *generally* contain the same subject matter as canceled claims 1 to 17, but have been drafted to avoid formal rejections for indefiniteness and the like.

Multiple dependent claims have been eliminated to comply with US Patent Office Rules and to minimize further work during prosecution.

The claims have been put in standard format for US Patent Practice. For example, the method claim 34 has been drafted as a series of positively recited steps for performing certain actions, but contains the same subject matter as canceled claim 17.

The dependent claims 20 and 23, which correspond to canceled claims 3 and 6 and recite preferred compounds, have been put in proper Markush form. Semicolons are used to separate formulae for individual compounds so that formulae including commas will not confuse the reader regarding the point at which one formula begins and another ends.

Claim 22, which corresponds to canceled claim 5, has been rewritten to correct translation errors.

Kit claims 30 to 33 include the additional statement that the dye carrier

compositions and components are separate from each other. A kit by definition differs from the mixed composition in that the components are kept separate from each other.

Should the Examiner require or consider it advisable that the specification, claims and/or drawing be further amended or corrected in formal respects to put this case in condition for final allowance, then it is requested that such amendments or corrections be carried out by Examiner's Amendment and the case passed to issue. Alternatively, should the Examiner feel that a personal discussion might be helpful in advancing the case to allowance, he or she is invited to telephone the undersigned at 1-631-549 4700.

In view of the foregoing, favorable allowance is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Michael J. Striker', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

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